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Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Letter dated 8 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation concerning Russian participation in the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly under item 127 of the preliminary list.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

* A/72/150.

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Annex to the letter dated 8 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation concerning Russian participation in the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

In July 1906, at a session of the State Duma of the Russian Empire held in the Tauride Palace, the historic decision was taken to send the first Russian delegation to participate in the fourteenth Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in London. In October 2017, the Tauride Palace — the cradle of Russian parliamentarianism — will host participants and guests for the 137th IPU Assembly.

Established as a group of parliamentarians in 1889, IPU has become the most representative international parliamentary organization. It now has 173 member parliaments and 11 international parliamentary organizations as associate members.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation notes that, over a long period of history, parliamentary groups from the State Duma of the Russian Empire, the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation have worked consistently in IPU to advocate State interests, in full conformity with the purposes and principles set out in the IPU Statutes.

As one of the houses of the Federal Assembly — the parliament of the Russian Federation — the Federation Council attaches great importance to the work of IPU as the leading international forum for the development of parliamentary diplomacy. In that regard, the Federation Council endorses the Common Principles for Support to Parliaments adopted at the 195th session of the IPU Governing Council on 16 October 2014.

The Federation Council would like to see a greater role for IPU in joint efforts to establish a just and democratic world order and to foster inclusive political dialogue in the world's hotspots, particularly Syria. The efforts of IPU to expand interparliamentary cooperation on combating terrorism, including the decision to establish within its membership a high-level advisory group on counter-terrorism, are worthy of support.

The Federation Council acknowledges the central role of parliaments in supporting democracy and affirms its readiness to join in celebrating the International Day of Democracy, designated for 15 September pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 62/7 of 8 November 2007.

The Federation Council supports the initiative of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States to designate 30 June as the International Day of Parliamentarianism in honour of the anniversary of the founding assembly of IPU in Paris in 1889.

The decision to hold the IPU Assembly in St. Petersburg from 14 to 18 October 2017 demonstrates the unquestionable success of the interparliamentary movement and of the majority of States in their efforts to build international relations based on the principles of equality, democracy, respect and consideration of mutual interests.

The Federation Council will make every effort to ensure that the 137th IPU Assembly is held at a high level, in an atmosphere in which all participants without

exception can exchange their views openly and which facilitates the affirmation of democratic values and intercultural, interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue.

We will be pleased to welcome delegations from all IPU member parliaments and associate members, representatives of observers, and guests at the IPU Assembly in St. Petersburg.

Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation